Application No.: 09/843,051 Response to Final Office Action

REMARKS

Claims 22-47 are currently pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4 and 8-13 have been cancelled, and claims 22-47 have been added. No new matter has been added via the new claims. Specifically, support for claim 22 and 38 can be found at least at pages 16, lines 6-15 and Figure 7.

Applicant respectfully requests that this amendment be entered because it is accompanied by a RCE and the appropriate fee. An ID also accompanies the RCE.

Rejections of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Speicher et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,603,705. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Although Applicants do not concede the correctness of these rejections, Applicants have added new claims. Applicants assert that the invention as presently claimed is not anticipated by or obvious over Speicher. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Speicher et al, U.S. Patent No. 4,603,705. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Although Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection, Applicants have added new claims. Applicants assert that the invention as presently claimed is not obvious over Speicher. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8 and 10-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Schear, U.S. Patent No. 6,251,107. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Although Applicants do not concede the correctness of these rejections, Applicants have added new claims. Applicants assert that the invention as presently claimed is not obvious over Speicher. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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In view of the newly added claims, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at 763.505.0409 or by E-mail at anna.m.nelson@medtronic.com with any questions or comments.

Please grant any extension of time, if necessary for entry of this paper, and charge any fee due for such extension or any other fee required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. <u>13-2546</u>.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 3, 2006 /Anna M. Nelson/

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